

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06995 191051Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----098154 191055Z /15
O 190855Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5860

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6995

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), KS, KN, US, CH
SUBJ: CONSULTATION WITH ROKG FOREIGN MINISTER ON SECRETARY'S
DISCUSSION OF KOREA ISSUES WITH THE CHINESE

1. DESPITE MY REPEATED URGINGS TO FOREIGN MINISTER THAT
WE MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DIS-
CUSSIONS, THE FOLLOWING WIRE PRESS (HAPTONG) APPEARED
THIS AFTERNOON:

QUOTE: SEOUL, AUG 19 '(QHEPTONG) - SOUTH KOREA AND THE
UNITED STATES TODAY HELD WIDE-RANGING CONSULTATIONS ON
THE KOREAN QUESTION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME UP FOR DIS-
CUSSION WHEN U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE VISITS
COMMUNIST CHINA ON AUG. 22.

"FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN MET WITH THOMAS STERN,
MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE, THIS MORNING
FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE PLANNED
WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA AND THE ISSUE
OF GUARANTEEING A LASTING PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.
HONORABLE SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL DISCUSS WITH PEKING
LEADERS DURING HIS TRIP TO CHINA. (SENTENCE AS RECEIVED).

"AT THE MEETING, IT WAS LEARNED, FOREIGN MINISTER PAK
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REAFFIRMED THAT SEOUL GOVERNMENT'S STAND THAT IT WOULD
BE HARD TO EASE THE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA UN-
LESS NORTH KOREA RESPONDED WITH POSITIVENESS TO THE
REPEATED SOUTH KOREAN CALL FOR UNCONDITIONAL RESUMPTION
OF THE LONG-STALLED SOUTH-NORTH PEACE DIALOGUE.

"THE TWO ALSO AGREED THAT THE PLANNED U.S. MILITARY
PHASEOUT WOULD IN NO RPT NO WAY MEAN ANY CHANGE IN THE
U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF SOUTH KOREA, IT WAS
LEARNED.

"THE PAK-STERN CONSULTATIONS WILL SERVE AS BASIC MATERIALS FOR VANCE TO USE DURING HIS FORTHCOMING CHINA TRIP.

"THE TWO FURTHER AGREED TO CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AFTER VANCE'S VISIT TO PEKING, IT WAS SAID.

"IT COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED WHETHER THEY DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING THE U.S. REQUEST THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT EXTEND COOPERATION IN AN AMERICAN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SO-CALLED SOUTH KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL IN THE U.S. CONGRESS.

"IT WAS THEIR SECOND MEETING IN TWO DAYS. WHEN THEY MET THURSDAY, MINISTER PAK SAID THAT THERE WAS LITTLE FOR THE SEOUL GOVERNMENT TO HELP THE UNITED STATES IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED SCANDAL INVOLVING A KOREAN BUSINESSMAN WHO HOLDS A PERMANENT RESIDENTSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS SOMETHING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD SETTLE WITH PAK TONG-SUN, CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE ALLEGED INFLUENCE-BUYING SCHEME.
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"THE CONTROVERSIAL KOREAN BUSINESSMAN, BEING SOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES FOR INVESTIGATION, ARRIVED HERE FROM LONDON WHERE HE HAD STAYED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT THIS STORY TO APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS. THE SUBJECT OF TONG-SUN PARK NEVER AROSE. WE ARE VERY SORRY THAT THE STORY APPEARED BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE SITUATION. WE HAVE ALREADY VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED TO FOREIGN OFFICE.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, CAT-A,
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL06995
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: P840086-0411
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaaaeuzp.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3beb5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1446675
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATION WITH ROKG FOREIGN MINISTER ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION OF KOREA ISSUES WITH THE CHINESE
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, PGOV, KS, KN, US, CH, (VANCE, CYRUS), (PAK TONG-CHIN), (STERN, THOMAS) (STERN, THOMAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3beb5751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009